

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 06765 091612Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INRE-00
(ISO) W

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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8197

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 6765

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UK IS

SUBJ: PRIME MINISTER'S INVITATION TO LONDON

REF: LONDON 14912

1. I HAD OCCASION THIS WEEK TO OBSERVE THE REACTION OF
A MAN ONCE PURSUED AS A KILLER WITH A HIGH PRICE ON HIS
HEAD AS HE DESCRIBED HIS JOY OVER BEING INVITED AS A
STATE GUEST TO THE HOMELAND OF THOSE WHOSE SONS HE
ONCE HUNTED TO THEIR GRAVES.

2. WITH ALMOST CHILD-LIKE ENTHUSIASM EX-IRGUN CHIEFTAN
MENACHEM BEGIN RELATED TO ME IN A CONVERSATION EARLY
THIS WEEK THE SENSE OF PLEASURE AND ELATION THAT PRIME
MINISTER CALLAGHAN'S LETTER OF INVITATION HAD GIVEN
HIM. HOWEVER TOUGH AND OBDURATE THIS ENIGMATIC FIGURE
MAY AT TIMES APPEAR TO US, ONE COULD NOT HELP BUT BE
IMPRESSED BY THE SINCERITY OF HIS EMOTION AS HE
DESCRIBED HOW MUCH HE WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO THE
VISIT.

3. IN A SENSE THIS TRIP HOLDS EVEN GREATER PERSONAL
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SIGNIFICANCE FOR BEGIN THAN HIS VISIT TO WASHINGTON.
TO BE ASKED AFTER THIRTY YEARS TO BREAK BREAD AT HIGH
TABLE WITH THE POLITICAL LEADERS OF THOSE WHO WERE ONCE
HIS MOST BITTER ENEMIES CLEARLY REPRESENTS A TRIUMPHAL
MOMENT IN THIS MAN'S LIFE, AND HE IS ANYTHING BUT DEVOID
OF EITHER SENTIMENT OR SENTIMENTALITY.

4. FOREIGN MINISTER DAYAN, A SUPREME REALIST AND SELF-ACKNOWLEDGED CYNIC, ANTICIPATES THAT THE BRITISH VISIT WILL HARDLY BE ALL SWEETNESS AND LIGHT. HE EXPECTS TO SEE FRONT PAGE PICTURES OF THE FAMOUS INCIDENT IN WHICH THE IRGUN HANGED THREE BRITISH SARGEANTS FROM AN ORANGE TREE, AND IF BEGIN IS ASKED BY THE PRESS ABOUT THE PLO/IRGUN COMPARISON, BEGIN WILL SURELY RESPOND WITH A FULL SALVO OF JUSTIFICATION FOR THE IRGUN'S ANTI-BRITISH CAMPAIGN.

5. HOWEVER, DAYAN IS QUITE ADMIRING OF THE BRITISH DECISION TO INVITE BEGIN. HE SAYS IT SHOWS THAT THE BRITISH NOW FINALLY REALIZE THEY MUST "GET IN THE GAME HERE" IF THEY WANT TO HAVE ANY INFLUENCE. DAYAN TOLD ME THAT OWENS HAD EARLIER BEEN "UNABLE" TO SUGGEST A POSSIBLE ALTERNATE DATE FOR HIS VISIT TO JERUSALEM AFTER HAVING RATHER SUDDENLY CANCELLED TRIP SET FOR EARLY JULY. OWENS SUGGESTED HE AND DAYAN MEET INSTEAD IN NEW YORK, A SUGGESTION WHICH DAYAN FIRMLY REJECTED (AND PARENTHETICALLY REGARDED AS INSULTINGLY INSENSITIVE). NOW, DAYAN SAYS, IT'S CLEAR THAT THE BRITISH ARE ON THE RIGHT TRACK.

LEWIS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRIME MINISTER, CHIEF OF STATE VISITS, INVITATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 09-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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ISecure: 1
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Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
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Subject: PRIME MINISTER'S INVITATION TO LONDON
TAGS: PDIP, UK, IS, (BEGIN, MENACHEM), (CALLAGHAN, JAMES)
To: STATE
Type: TE
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Review Markings:
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